



EHS Fact Sheet

Emergency Eyewash & Safety Showers

Emergency showers and eyewash stations are used in situations that require irrigation of the eyes and body of a person who has been exposed to substances that can cause irritation or tissue damage. Shower and eyewash stations must be easily located, and personnel must be trained on proper usage. Emergency showers are used to flush the entire body with water, while eyewash stations are used to provide water to flush both eyes simultaneously.

When are showers and eyewash stations necessary?

A hazard assessment should be conducted for your workplace, to determine potential exposures.

A station could be required if you answer yes to the following:

- Are potentially hazardous chemicals found in the work area?
- Is there an exposure risk to these chemicals?

Areas that may require a station include:

- Laboratories or shops.
- Spraying operations.
- Hazardous chemical dispensing areas.
- Hazardous waste accumulation areas.

Inspections and Weekly Tests

- Eye wash stations shall be tested weekly by lab personnel.
- A weekly log with the date and initials of the person performing the test shall be kept for each eye wash station in the lab.
- EHS personnel shall perform yearly inspections and tests for eye wash stations and overhead showers.



In the Event of an Exposure

- Flush eyes and or skin for 15 minutes.
- Hold eyelids open with fingers so water can fully flush the eyes.
- Remove contaminated clothing while under shower. Use assistance, if needed.
- Notify your supervisor, call 911, and provide the safety data sheet for medical personnel upon their arrival.
- Notify EHS as soon as possible.

Safety Shower and Eyewash Locations

- Within 10 seconds (approximately 55 feet) from the potential exposure location or adjacent to corrosive chemical use.
- Away from obstructions that interfere with its use.
- Must be a safe distance from electrical hazards such as outlets.